IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claim 9 as follows.

1. (Withdrawn) A plain old telephone service (POTS) extender for at least one conductor pair for providing packets to a packet network and receiving packets from the packet network comprising:

a subscriber line interface circuit (SLIC) having a connection to the at least one conductor pair, said SLIC having a upstream voice signal output and a downstream voice signal input;

a codec for converting the upstream voice signal output to a upstream digital voice signal output and converting a downstream digital voice signal input to the downstream voice signal;

a vocoder for converting the upstream digital voice signal output to a first data stream and for converting a second data stream to the downstream digital voice signal input;

a packet assembler and disassembler (PAD) for converting the first data stream into a first at least one packet and for converting a second at least one packet into the second data stream, said PAD coupled to the packet network, said PAD having at least one network address; and

an output means for transmitting a master DSL modem control signal based on a fallback signal carried by the at least one conductor pair.

2. (Withdrawn) The POTS extender of claim 1, wherein the output means further comprises:

a loop current detector having a connection to the at least one conductor pair, said loop current detector providing the master DSL modem control signal.

3. (Withdrawn) The POTS extender of claim 1 wherein the SLIC further comprises:

a telephony current source;

a switch hook detector; and

a ringing signal source.

4. (Withdrawn) The POTS extender of claim 1 further comprising:

a master DSL modem having at least one network address and connected to the at least one conductor pair.

5. (Withdrawn) The local loop circuit of claim 4 wherein the at least one network address comprises at least one asynchronous transfer mode virtual circuit.

6. (Withdrawn) The POTS extender of claim 1 wherein the at least one network address comprises at least one asynchronous transfer mode virtual circuit.

7. (Previously Presented) A DSL suppression circuit for suppressing DSL mode operation on a local loop comprising:

a loop current detector for sensing current drain on the local loop;

a means for providing a suppression signal controllable by said loop current detector; and

a master DSL modem operative coupled to a subscriber line interference circuit (SLIC), said master DSL modem operating in a quiescent state upon receiving the suppression signal, wherein the SLIC provides power to a subscriber line during the quiescent state.

8. (Original) The DSL suppression circuit of claim 7 wherein the means for providing a suppression signal comprises:

a relay operable on a removal of power to connect a voice conductor pair to the local loop.

9. (Currently Amended) A method for providing a customer premise line connection to a DSL modem comprising the steps of:

detecting whether a line has a off-hook condition or an on-hook condition;

energizing a relay to couple the line to a DSL modem, wherein the line has said on-hook condition in response to the DSL modem receiving a suppression signal; and

activating switching means for bypassing the DSL modem during a quiescent state upon the DSL modem receiving a suppression signal.

10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9 wherein the step of detecting said off-hook condition comprises the step of sensing current drain.

11. (Original) The method of claim 9 further comprising the step of booting up a processor.

12. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9 wherein the step of energizing said relay comprises connecting the line to at least one subscriber line interface circuit (SLIC).

13. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12 wherein the step of energizing the relay comprises connecting the DSL modem to a subscriber line.